

TESTIMONY

SCR48

Measure Title: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXPAND A SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM STATEWIDE.

Report Title: Task Force; School Garden Program

Description:

Companion:

Package: Keiki

Current Referral: HTH/AGL, EDU

Introducer(s): CHUN OAKLAND, FUKUNAGA, SHIMABUKURO, Baker, Galuteria, Ige, Kidani, Nishihara, Taniguchi, Tokuda

**HTH/AGL, EDU
Committee Hearing
03-27-2012**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEES ON HEALTH and AGRICULTURE

SCR 48, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO EXPAND A SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM STATEWIDE

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

March 27, 2012
1:45 pm, Room 229

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports this Resolution.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** The DOH will convene the task force with an external facilitator; estimated cost is
3 \$7,500.00

4 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of Senate Concurrent Resolution 48 is to convene a task force
5 to determine how best to expand a school garden program statewide. The task force is required to report
6 its findings and recommendations, including recommendations for legislation and funding.

7 The DOH would like to support the development of school gardens statewide as part of its
8 chronic disease prevention strategy. The evaluation of school garden projects has demonstrated
9 improvements in students' knowledge, attitudes and behaviors related to the consumption of fruits and
10 vegetables. Benefits of a diet rich in fruits and vegetables include a reduced risk for heart attack,
11 diabetes, high blood pressure blood pressure, and some cancers.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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Date: 03/27/2012

Committee: Senate Health, Senate Agriculture

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education

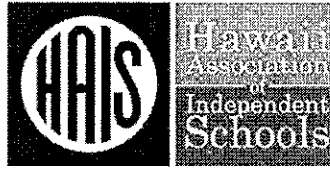
Title of Resolution: SCR 048

Purpose of Resolution: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A
TASK FORCE TO EXPAND A SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM
STATEWIDE.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports this resolution and will provide a School Garden Task Force representative.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



Tuesday, March 27, 2012
1:45 PM
Conference Room 229

TESTIMONY TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE

RE: SCR 48 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE
TO EXPAND A SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM STATEWIDE.

Chairs Green and Nishihara; Vice Chair Kahele; and Members of the Committees:

My name is Robert Witt and I am executive director of the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools (HAIS), which represents 99 private and independent schools in Hawaii and educates over 33,000 students statewide.

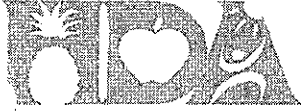
HAIS supports SCR 48 and finds that the aspirations expressed in this measure are aligned with the goals of our own farm-to-school initiative, GROW HAWAII.

GROW HAWAII is a member of the Hawaii Farm to School and School Garden Hui and the O'ahu Farm to School Network, both of which are collaborative networks dedicated to addressing educational needs in agricultural sustainability by supporting existing school gardens, implementing new school gardens and integrating locally grown and made foods into cafeterias, snack programs, and after school programs with community involvement.

As SCR 48 states, many children in Hawaii have limited exposure to the wide range of locally produced healthy food available and do not know where the food they eat comes from or how their food was produced or prepared.

By supporting SCR 48, we will be able to continue to work with private, public and grassroots organizations to find solutions to food sustainability for the future of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



PO Box 22298

Honolulu, HI 96823-2298

Hawai'i Dietetic Association

Senator Josh Green, M.D.: HTH CHAIR

Measure: SCR48 – Requesting the DOH convene a task force to expand a school garden program statewide

Committee on Health

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Time: 1:45 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 229

Dear Senator Green,

I am Amy Tousman, Registered Dietitian (RD) and President of the Hawaii Dietetic Association (HDA). HDA represents approximately 300 members throughout the state of Hawai'i, Guam and Saipan. I am writing to inform you that HDA is in strong SUPPORT of SCR48 which requests the Department of Health through its' Healthy Hawaii Initiative convene a School Gardens Task Force. I understand this legislation will allow the task force to determine how best to expand school gardens programs statewide.

Also, I humbly submit to you the recommendation to include a representative from HDA on the task force. The RD is respected and recognized as the premier expert in food and nutrition. Local RDs have been involved in the development of school wellness policies and planning healthy menus. They have also been involved in innovative programs such as 'AINA in the Schools, Kaho'omiki Fun 5 Training and Kid Fit Programs

The American Diabetes Association of Hawaii estimates that one in two children born in the year 2000 in Hawaii will develop Type 2 Diabetes in their lifetime. Overweight and obese children are more likely to suffer chronic health conditions such as heart disease and diabetes as adults. Some of these children may not grow up to outlive their parents. These are alarming statistics

Many children in Hawaii do not have access to a broad range of local produce which offers a wide variety of healthy food options. The addition of locally grown produce in school meals will increase the exposure of our schoolchildren to nutrient rich fruits and vegetables of the highest quality. Produce shipped from the mainland or elsewhere loses its' nutritional value over the distance and time of travel. Farm to School Programs will allow our schoolchildren to see where their food comes from. This includes planting, harvesting, preparation and the presentation of a healthy meal. This will help to promote a lifetime of healthy eating. RDs have always believed and taught that a healthy lifestyle begins in the home and is fostered in our schools and in our communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your consideration of this measure and its passage.

Respectfully yours,

Amy Tousman, RD, MPH, CDE
President, Hawaii Dietetic Association
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(808)398-3813



PO Box 22298

Honolulu, HI 96823-2298

Hawai'i Dietetic Association

Senator Josh Green, M.D.: HTH CHAIR

Measure: SCR48 – Requesting the DOH convene a task force to expand a school garden program statewide

Committee on Health

Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Time: 1:45 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 229

Dear Senator Green,

I am Sally Belles, Registered Dietitian (RD) and Public Policy Panel Chair of the Hawaii Dietetic Association (HDA). HDA represents approximately 300 members throughout the state of Hawai'i, Guam and Saipan. I am in strong support of SCR48 which requests the Department of Health convene a School Gardens Task Force.

Our Keiki do not always have access to local produce which offers a variety of nutrients to support healthy growth and development. The addition of locally grown produce to school meals will allow our Keiki to enjoy fruits and vegetables of the highest quality. Our Keiki deserve the best our local farmers have to offer. Farm to School Programs will allow our Keiki to see where their food comes from and promote a lifetime of healthy eating behaviors. As a practicing dietitian I believe and teach that healthy eating starts with choosing whole, fresh foods.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for your consideration of this measure and its passage.

Respectfully yours,

Sally M. Belles, RD, CDE
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(808) 753-1472